

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro,

I write to inquire about the administration of the fee programs Fee Demo and FLREA and to request an updated audit of these programs. Although the FLREA was enacted primarily to allow federal land management agencies to reinvest recreation fees at the local recreation sites where they are collected to benefit visitors through facility maintenance and services, the past administration of these programs is cause for concern.

It is critical that in these difficult economic times, fees collected under these programs are spent in a cost effective manner and are used only to pay for services rendered by the land management agencies that collect them. These programs are not intended as a general grant of authority from which to collect fees from recreationalists for uses other than those specified in FLREA. Concerns have been raised that fees are being assessed which are not needed to pay for maintenance or services, but are instead excessive or consist largely of the cost of assessing the fees themselves.

There have been two previous GAO reports, one on Fee Demo (GAO-03-470) and one on FLREA (GAO-06-1016). Both identified some serious problems, and an updated audit of these programs is needed to determine whether these problems have been addressed and whether new issues have arisen. We appreciate your analysis of the effectiveness of these fee programs as we continue to work towards a more accountable and cost efficient recreational fee system.

Sincerely,